



PDC NEWS

711 Capitol Way, Room 206
Olympia Washington

Public Disclosure Commission

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Enforcement Matters

In lieu of a full enforcement hearing, the Commission accepted a stipulated agreement with the **Washington State Democratic Central Committee** (WSDCC) finding a single violation of failing to forfeit a \$20,000 contribution received from the **Democratic Party of Oregon** (DPO), after the Oregon committee failed to timely file a PDC form C-5 required by out-of-state or federal committees. The Commission assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty against the WSDCC and suspended \$500 on the condition that the state committee complies with the provisions of RCW 42.17.090(1)(l) for a period of four years.

The Commission also recommended the Attorney General's Office take appropriate action to enforce provisions of an October 23, 2001 stipulated agreement between the state and **King County**. The Commission asked to reinstate a suspended civil penalty of \$12,500 for King County's failure to adhere to provisions of the agreement. **King County** and the **King County Department of Transportation** were found in violation of state law for diverting a portion of county employee funds for contributions to a political committee and had agreed as part of the stipulated agreement with the Attorney General's Office to develop protocols for employee payroll deductions to political committees, develop training programs for county administrators and share the information with local government organizations. King County failed to fulfill their part of the agreement and will now be directed to pay the full \$20,000 civil penalty.

Rule Making

The Commission approved language to be included in a proposed rule (WAC 390-17-110) designed to implement and clarify RCW 42.17.680. Current law requires annual notification of employees from whom wages or salary are withheld for contributions to political committees or for use as political contributions. Annual notification must include the non-discriminatory provision of RCW 42.17.680(2) and the notification about the right to revoke the authorization for payroll deductions at any time. The proposed language clarifies who sends the notification to employees, examples of what constitutes written notification, and how long the records must be kept.

Advisory Matters

The Commission reviewed and adopted a policy standardizing penalties for failure to file monthly lobbyist reports (PDC form L-2). The policy will be reviewed after six months and either adopted formally or developed into a Commission rule.

Lobbyist Monthly Expense Report (L-2) Penalty Grid

Status	1 st Occasion	2 nd Occasion	3 rd Occasion	4 th Occasion
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$150	\$300	\$500	Full Commission consideration
Filed report after hearing notice but before enforcement hearing. Did not pay settlement amount.	\$100	\$200	\$400	Full Commission consideration
Filed report after hearing notice but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at the hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not pay settlement amount.	\$0 - \$100	\$100 - \$200	\$200 - \$400	Full Commission consideration

Requests for Review/Reconsideration

The Commission vacated the violation and penalty against **Guy Jones**, former School Board Member, Crescent School District #313, who was found in violation of state law on June 4, 2002 for failure to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement and assessed a civil penalty of \$300. They let stand an October finding of violation against **Doug Schurman** and the **Ad Hoc Merchants Committee of Clarkston** for failure to register as a political committee, but suspended the entire \$250 civil penalty originally imposed by the Commission Chair. The Commission took no action on a request for reconsideration by **Joe Wheeler**, City Council Member for the City of Kelso, who was found in violation for failure to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement at a Brief Enforcement Hearing on July 23, 2002. The violation and civil penalty of \$300 for Mr. Wheeler stands as ordered.

Reporting Modifications

The Commission held for future action the requests for reporting modifications by **Christine Cary**, Judge, Spokane County District Court and **Patricia Connolly Walker**, Candidate for Spokane County District Court Judge. They did grant the request for the renewal of a reporting modification by **Kenneth Alhadeff**, Regent, Washington State University.

Electronic Filing Extension Requests

The Commission approved the request of the **Douglas County Republic Central Committee** and **MACPAC**, McDonald's Franchise Owners Political Committee, for an extension in electronically filing their campaign finance reports. Candidates and political committee that expend \$25,000 or more are now required to file all campaign finance reports electronically. The DCRCC expended just over \$26,000 and MACPAC expended approximately \$50,000 in 2002. In granting the extension the Commission gave the two committees until February 10, 2003 to comply with the mandatory requirements.

The Commission meeting materials may be found at www.pdc.wa.gov under **Commission Meetings** at **Meeting Agendas and Materials**. For additional information concerning these issues contact Doug Ellis, Director of Public Outreach, at (360) 664-2735, toll free 1-877-601-2828 or e-mail at dellis@pdc.wa.gov.